

THE OWOSSO TIMES.

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OWOSSO, MICHIGAN, MARCH 12, 1897.

WHOLE NO. 868.

900 DROPS

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Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

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Licorice -
Rhubarb -
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Sage -
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A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.

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HOUSE BILL 909 MEANS LESS TAXES AND A SAVING TO EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN SHIAWASSEE COUNTY.

TO THE PEOPLE OF SHIAWASSEE CO.:
House bill 909, drafted by the writer and introduced and heartily supported by Hon. F. M. Shepard, of this county, in brief provides for visitation of schools only upon the written request of the director, and also providing that the compensation for the Commissioner of Schools shall be fixed by the board of supervisors. This is the measure stripped of all formalities and it is intended and expected that the expense as now incurred by the duties of the office and the burden upon the tax-payers will be reduced from one-half to one-third.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE SCHOOL TAX.
The school tax is one of the heaviest items of taxation and the office of Commissioner incurs a tax of something over \$10.00 FOR EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY, and at the same time the cities of Owosso, Corunna and Bancroft pay their proportion of this tax levy and the Commissioner has nothing whatever to do with those schools. In other words, the enactment of House Bill 909 would save the towns above noted several hundred dollars in taxes now paid for an official who under no possible circumstances can benefit the schools above named.

THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS
each year are diminishing in point of attendance, and their decline is a question that is engaging the serious attention of educators, and whatever may be claimed for the office, it cannot be gained that it has been powerless to prevent this condition. It is also true that the educational system in this state was not built up by the office, for whatever there may be of power in our schools was built up prior to the enactment of the law some ten years ago. So on top of a diminishing attendance of our rural schools there is built up an expensive office of superintendence, and with the decade the office has been in existence costing the county perhaps \$10,000, there has grown up a county debt of about \$10,000 OR ABOUT 30 CENTS PER CAPITA. With the increase of debt and taxes there has come a decreased ability to pay taxes and this office being the last in point of creation is in the final analysis the one for whose support in this county the food and raiment is denied the family in order that the office may exist and be supported.

THE HISTORY OF THE OFFICE IN THIS COUNTY.
The incumbents have entered upon the work with zeal and continued it in disappointment. The writer credits himself with personal knowledge of two years' work. Passing over one year the next incumbent practically wore himself out in the rounds of visitation and faithful labor and resigned to accept a position where rational superintendence was possible. The succeeding Commissioner travelled the same roads and as ardently labored for the common good but resigned to enter a field where the circuit of superintendence was less in area and the possibilities for results more sure. The present incumbent and candidate for re-election, has zealously undertaken the duties of the office and as to his courtesy and qualification I desire to testify, and at the same time ask him to join in a protest against the continuance of an office as now existing which entails taxation and debt upon the people of the county. And the continuance thereof is in face of diminishing district school attendance and power, diminishing ability of people to support, and the history of the office in this county is one of disappointments in point of realization, and the absurdity is apparent when it is noted that the Commissioner has presuable to superintend ten times as many teachers in the course of a year as does the superintendent of the Owosso schools and then these spread out over 500 times as much territory. In other words, if the Commissioner of schools can do effective work under those conditions there is no reason why one superintendent of city schools might not rule over all the schools along the line of the D. G. H. & M. Ry. for example.

There are a number of things in this world more to be desired than money, and among those things is to live among a happy and prosperous people who are not depressed by taxation and by the multiplication of offices. To this end I have become a candidate for the office of Commissioner of Schools, in call attention to the facts relating to the office, and to make it a test case at the polls as to whether the office as now provided for shall continue, or whether it shall be subject to the people through their board of supervisors.

If Shiawassee county, by a decided vote on April 5th, shall approve the course here taken it will practically decide

whether the legislature shall enact the bill heretofore mentioned.

Your approval of the measure can be made apparent by putting an (X) opposite the name James N. McBride for School Commissioner, who if elected (and the law remain as it is now) agrees to carry out the letter of the law, in the spirit of the foregoing, by returning a portion of the salary to the county treasury, or by providing several normal training classes for teachers, or to offer \$25.00 as a scholarship to one student in each township and city (18 in all) to attend the short term course in agriculture at the Agricultural College next winter. The history of the short term courses in Wisconsin is very gratifying, and with the possibilities of sugar beet culture soon to be before us, 18 young men studying along the lines of improved agriculture in this or other lines for six weeks would mean much more to this county in the course of ten years than the expenditure for school visitation has in the past.

The above is my reason and sole reason for asking for your votes, and I am equally frank in saying that if you disapprove of the attempt to reduce taxation and unproductive expenditure please don't vote for me.

Very respectfully,
JAS. N. McBRIDE.

AN OPEN LETTER.

SHALL MEN BE ELECTED TO OFFICE WHO PROPOSE TO NEGLECT THEIR DUTIES?

An Invited Criticism of the Circular which Candidate McBride is circulating.

Corunna, March 9, '97.
MR. JAS. N. McBRIDE,

Dear Sir: The following letter from you will explain what I have written below:

MY DEAR SHELTON:
I send you the enclosure which represents my candid convictions. Others may differ from me, but there may be an honest opinion on both sides. If you can see your way clear, any comment, either direct or by publication is invited. The public good is all I care for, and it seems at present to cut down office expenses. Very Truly,

J. N. McBRIDE.
I shall soon give up school work in this county and my only interest in the matter is that of a small tax-payer. Thus I can sympathize with your expressed desire to keep down taxes. In the past, too, I have believed in economy and honesty in office. These sayings, however, are truisms. The "enclosure" which you ask me to discuss, seems to be a campaign document setting forth the reasons why the voter should "put an (X) opposite the name of Jas. N. McBride for school commissioner." If I understand you, your reasons are two, each based upon the supposition that the commissioner law is a useless burden to the tax-payers of the county. You say, first, that your election by a decided vote will practically decide whether the legislature will enact a law taking away all importance from the office of commissioner; second, that, if the legislature does not pass such a bill, you will in some way refund to the county part of what you receive in salary.

Men may differ as to the best school system. Perhaps our present law is not the best. If you want my opinion I think it is the best the state has thus far had. Nor can I understand how any person who has for two years conscientiously done the work of the office, can assert that there is no chance to do good. It seems to me that if a commissioner gives his whole time to the work and tries to do his duty without fear or favor, good must result. A farmer does not set his men to work in the field and leave them without supervision. I know of no successful business that is carried on without supervision. The policy that you seem to favor is a new departure in the history of Michigan. We have never had a system since Michigan had free schools that omitted supervision. To put the teachers in schools without arranging for supervision would, in my opinion, be in many districts as bad as to close the school houses; and to wait until there was trouble in the district before calling in the commissioner would be to wait until the time of usefulness was past. The commissioner's work is not that of settling neighborhood disputes or deciding between teachers and dissatisfied patrons. His work must begin before this stage is reached. He must advise inexperienced teachers and encourage them; he must give indolent teachers to understand that the school fund is not paid out as public charity, and that incapacity will not be tolerated; finally, he must, when necessary, use his authority to prevent weak and incompetent teachers from continuing in the profession. If he follows this

course he may make enemies, but he will benefit the schools.

Here, perhaps, I might stop; but the remainder of your circular letter demands attention. I pass over your suggestion that your election means the repeal of our present law, as an argument merely written to fill space. The only argument in your letter that can possibly persuade anybody to vote for you is your promise to return to the county part of the salary of the office. I do not agree with you regarding the worthlessness of the office; yet regardless of other matters I shall vote for the man I believe the best candidate, and a person who does agree with you regarding the law may yet find it impossible to give you his support. I hesitate to write this part of my letter and beg you to remember that it was written at your request.

I cannot find a word in your letter that promises work or honest effort if you are elected. Indeed, the sentiment your letter conveys to me is that the office is useless; hence, that if elected you will not devote your time to it. Besides, I understand that you have other duties that take your entire time. I am not in the habit of voting for men who proclaim that, if elected, they will neglect the duties of the office. In my own work as Commissioner, it was often my privilege, in the mere routine duties of the office, to save districts, and on one occasion to save an entire township, their primary money. I am not in favor of electing any one who will not do the work.

You promise to refund part of the salary. I do not like the way this promise is expressed. You say that you will do one of three things: return a portion of the salary to the county, provide normal training classes for teachers, or establish in the county 18 scholarships at the Agricultural College. This sounds to me like a clever, lawyer-like promise that is framed so as to be easily evaded. If you mean anything, why do you not state precisely what you will do, and so leave no loop-hole of escape. To be frank with you, I do not believe that you will keep this promise in a way that will be of value to the county. My special reason for this is that according to my best recollection you once before, in the winter of 1890, when you were Secretary of the Board of Examiners, a position paying \$1,000, and at the same time candidate for superintendence of the census, a position paying \$1,000, told me that, if appointed, you would return one quarter's salary as Secretary, \$275, to the institute fund. You received the appointment, held both the offices at the same time, and have not yet, so far as my knowledge extends, paid the \$275 to the institute fund. I do not claim to be your conscience keeper; but I decidedly object to supporting you for this or any other office. Saying nothing about your failure to pay a quarter's salary to the institute fund, the fact that you saw nothing wrong in holding two high salaried offices at the same time prevents me from having full confidence in your sense of right and wrong.

Very Respectfully,
HUDSON SHELTON.

Village Elections.

The elections in the several villages of the county passed off very quietly, on Monday. Except in one or two instances politics did not enter the contests.

MORRICE.
President, W. O. Morris; clerk, C. L. Barthol; treasurer, W. A. Cooley; assessor, T. J. Jones; trustees, W. H. Davis, C. G. Henry, W. Wade. All elected on the progressive ticket, except Mr. Wade, who was on the citizen's.

DURAND.
Pres., C. C. DeCamp; clerk, W. H. Putnam; treasurer, W. H. McPherson; assessor, A. G. Cowles; trustees, N. Goodyear, A. McBride, A. E. Pratt. By a vote of 109 yeas to 48 noes, the village decided to appropriate \$1,200 to purchase land for a park, which means for the Grand Trunk Ry. system.

BYRON.
Had two tickets in the field, regular and citizen's, the former electing all nominees except treasurer and one trustee. President, A. F. Hunt; clerk, F. D. Stowell; assessor, L. E. Lutz; treasurer, C. J. Williams; trustees, E. E. Luckey, Perry Had-sall, William Harper.

PERRY.
The republican ticket was easily elected: President, Dr. L. M. Marshall; clerk, H. B. Hawley; treasurer, C. M. Spaulding; assessor, C. E. Calkins; trustees, G. R. Brandt, C. H. Calkins, E. Bostford.

VENON.
The entire citizen's ticket was elected by a large majority. President, Henry Clark; clerk, G. W. Lindley; treasurer, J. D. McIntosh; assessor, J. H. Dettart; trustees, F. E. Hart, L. W. Van Alstine, P. E. Kirkham.

BANCROFT.
Two tickets in the field, citizen's and the people's. Result: President, C. H. Warren; clerk, C. A. Bradley; assessor, B. D. Black; treasurer, Henry Williams; trustees, C. E. Godfrey, A. J. Kent, C. B. Simonson.

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

Every Patriotic Citizen Should Contribute to Pay for It

The Soldiers' Monument committee held a meeting Monday afternoon at the Owosso Savings Bank parlors to decide upon some plan for raising the fund required to pay the balance due upon the monument ordered by the committee, which is to be dedicated on Decoration Day. The Woman's Relief Corps and G. A. R. Post have nearly \$500 on hand. The monument committee appointed from the Business Men's Association, W. R. C. and G. A. R. desire aid from the citizens to raise about \$300 more to pay the balance and other necessary expenses. They would like to receive the cooperation of the newspapers of the county in receiving voluntary subscriptions and in publishing in their columns the names of the donors and amounts contributed. They desire that the whole amount shall be raised by voluntary subscriptions, if possible.

A special committee consisting of Messrs. O. F. Webster, M. C. Dawes and H. C. Frieske, was appointed to secure permission from the School Board to place a subscription paper to be placed with the teacher of each department of the schools to receive subscriptions from the children. The teachers will be furnished with cards or circulars giving a description and view of the monument, with perhaps an attached blank receipt to be filled out and signed by the teacher, on payment of any subscription. The object is not only to raise funds but also to interest the children in the work of erecting the monument and enlisting their respect in years to come for the memory of the soldiers who offered their lives in the defense of our country.

Mrs. M. C. Dawes was appointed treasurer of the committee, to whom subscriptions may be made. Subscriptions may also be paid to A. D. Whipple at the Owosso Savings Bank, or left at THE TIMES office.

Horseshoers Organize.

The horseshoers of this county have long realized that it would be far better for themselves and infinitely so for the "Black Beauty" entrusted to them to be fitted with shoes, if the standard of proficiency in their trade could be raised. Not every man who can nail shoes to a horse's foot is competent to do the work as it should be done and many a valuable horse has been ruined by men of this class. The object of the Master Horseshoers' Protective Association of Michigan, a branch of which was organized in city on Friday evening last by Jos. Carr, state organizer, is to raise the business to a higher level and not to increase prices or seek to control the business. The officers elected are: President, A. Stegall; first vice-president, John Wood, Corunna; second vice president, B. H. Hazen; secretary, F. J. Melvin, Jr.; corresponding secretary, H. D. Hanes; treasurer, Geo. Cook; sergeant-at-arms, V. O. Cook.

PROF. DAYTON C. MILLER.

The Marvelous X-Rays—Baptist Church, Wednesday Evening, March 17.

The closing lecture in the Y. M. C. A. Star Course will be given at the Baptist church, on Wednesday evening next, by Prof. D. C. Miller. Subject: "X-Rays." THE TIMES hopes that every person in the city and surrounding country who can attend this lecture will do so. The management of the course has decided to reduce the price of single admission to 25 cents, in order to give all an opportunity to learn something of this new and marvelous scientific discovery.

The Fifth Ward.

Gov. Pingree has signed the bill, creating the fifth ward in this city, and the same is now in effect. The new ward is composed of all the territory west of Cedar street, north to the river, and all territory west of the river. The aldermen of the old first and fifth wards will at once prepare the registration book for the fifth ward, as provided by the charter.

The regular meeting of the Junior Literary Club will be held at the home of Miss Mame Hoyt, Water street, Saturday afternoon. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward will be the author discussed. Officers will be elected for the coming year, and the entire membership is urged to be present.

Supervisor Crane, of Rush, is arranging to enlarge and improve his residence.

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